THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 7th November 1952.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, Madras, at half-past ten of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Disturbance in an anti-cow slaughter meeting.

* 96-A Q.—SRI N. GOPALA MENON: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether a clash took place at Payyoli in Malabar district between the members of the R.S.S. group and others on account of the wilful slaughter of a bull at the place where an anti-cow slaughter meeting was being held, resulting in death and injuries to many; and

(*b*) if so, what steps have been taken to restore peace and security in the locality?

Communal disturbances at Payyoli.

* 96-B Q.—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware of any communal riot having taken place at Payyoli, North Malabar on 31st October 1952 and, if so, whether he can give the details of occurrence?

MR. SPEAKER:—"There are two short notice questions Nos. 96-A and 96-B, one is given notice of by Sri N. Gopala Menon and the other by Sri M. Narayana Kurup. The Hon. Chief Minister wishes to make a statement on them."

* THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—"Sir, in answer to Sri N. Gopala Menon's question No. 96-A which will also cover Sri Narayana Kurup's question No. 96-B, I wish to make a brief statement to-day before we disperse.

"On the 26th of October at Payyoli in North Malabar, a local branch of the R.S.S. organized a meeting in connexion with cow slaughter. The meeting was a small one of about 50 persons. While this anti-cow slaughter meeting was going on, a local Muslim butcher is stated to have brought out an ox and slaughtered it in public within a few yards of the meeting. It is also alleged that there was some further provocation in addition to the public slaughter of the ox. The meeting was terminated without any serious incidents. But, on the next day, the organizer of the meeting was waylaid by about seven Muslims and he received serious

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injuries for which he was admitted in the hospital at Badagara and then transferred to Calicut Hospital. Two days later there were public protest meetings at which references were made to the action of the Muslim offenders.

"On the 30th of October, six of the accused persons who were concerned in the assault surrendered before the local Police, but were immediately released on bail. This release was unfortunate and has been taken notice of by the superior Police officials.

"On the 31st of October, one of the persons who was released along with some others trespassed into the house of a cousin of the R.S.S. organizer, but they were chased away by neighbours, who were Hindu fishermen. This led to an assault on a Hindu fisherman by a Muslim and as a result a large crowd gathered near the railway station and the bazaar. Some of the people who arrived by train just about that time from Quilandy started attacking the Hindus on the railway station and near by. These assailants it seems had heard exaggerated versions about the happenings at Payyoli. There was retaliation on the part of the Hindu crowd resulting altogether in 3 Hindus and 8 Muslims being injured as far as we could ascertain. Further disturbances were fortunately prevented by the Armed Reserve, who brought the situation under control. About an hour later at a different spot, 5 or 6 persons chased one Kannan, a clerk of a local Vakil near the Vakil's residence inside a coconut tope and stabbed him to death as he ran into the house. There was another case of arson in which the house of the principal participants in the case of assault on the R.S.S. organizer was set on fire. This happened on the 1st of November. We have not heard any other unfortunate incidents so far. The situation has been kept under control and there are adequate Police forces to prevent any disorder. Effective patrolling has been organized in the area and elsewhere. The authorities in charge of order are alert throughout the district. A police station has been opened at the scene of trouble and non-official efforts on the part of both Hindus and Muslims are being exerted with good results. The latest report from the Inspector-General of Police indicates that the situation throughout the district is quiet, that the investigation into murder and rioting cases is proceeding vigorously and 4 out of 7 people alleged to have taken part in the murder have been arrested. The two principal offenders are, however, still absconding. The situation is entirely under control and is expected to become normal very soon. The cases resulting from these will soon be in courts for judicial trial and I would deprecate discussion which may prejudice or be thought to prejudice fair trial."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Question No. 109 will be taken up on the 24th November as the Hon. Minister for Public Works has requested me to do so."